

## **Clarification on Timing of DHW Criminal History and Background Check Renewal**

Since the email was sent last week about renewing clearances of DHW criminal history and background checks, there have been many CFH providers who immediately went about the renewal process. While I very much appreciate your willingness to comply with the new rule going into effect, the promptness of those efforts is resulting in a bottle-neck and causing panic for providers who are unable to find an available fingerprinting appointment at this time. To ease the minds of those unable to make a fingerprinting appointment at this time, please understand that the CFH Management Team is taking a "soft" approach to enforcement of the new rule. A soft approach means that for the first year, certifying agents will merely be giving **technical assistance** (which is advice on how to be in compliance with rules) to providers whose clearances are older than five (5) years.

**Receiving technical assistance does not prevent you from being recertified.** Certifying agents will only cite outdated clearances as formal deficiencies when a CFH provider had been given technical assistance regarding this matter during the previous recertification survey and failed to follow through.

The bottom line is that there is **plenty of time** for CFH providers to renew their DHW criminal history and background check clearances before an outdated clearance affects a CFH certificate. Certifying agents will only begin citing deficiencies for outdated clearances **after July 1, 2021**.

Thank you again for the attention you give to complying with CFH rules. Please reach out to your regional certifying agent should you have further questions.